1. In a computerized system that includes one or more clients accessing a gateway and content server that are part of a network, wherein access to the content server requires authentication credentials, the network maintaining gateway authentication credentials that specify one or more access privileges tailored to access through the gateway, a method of authenticating a client comprising a gateway performing the acts of:

defining an authentication filter that maps authentication credentials received from clients according to pre-established criteria;

receiving authentication credentials from a client;

mapping the received authentication credentials based on the pre-established criteria, the mapped authentication credentials matching gateway authentication credentials maintained on the network and corresponding to client access through the gateway; and

sending the mapped authentication credentials to the network, wherein the client's access to the content source is determined from the mapped authentication credentials.

2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein gateway authentication credentials and other authentication credentials are maintained in separate domains, and wherein the act of mapping the received authentication credentials includes changing a domain name that is part of the received authentication credentials.

3. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the act of mapping the received authentication credentials includes replacing the domain name that is part of the received authentication credentials with another domain name.

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4. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the gateway authentication credentials are maintained in a credential database that is administered separately from domain authentication credentials and recognized by the content server only in authenticating client access through the gateway.

5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein gateway authentication credentials and other authentication credentials share a common domain, and wherein the act of mapping the received authentication credentials includes changing a username that is part of the received authentication credentials.

6. A method as recited in claim 5 wherein the act of mapping the received authentication credentials includes adding a suffix to the username.

7. A method as recited in claim 5 wherein the act of mapping the received authentication credentials includes adding a prefix to the username.

8. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the client includes one or more identified wireless application protocol servers providing gateway and content server access to one or more other clients, the method further comprising the act of accepting authentication credentials only from the one or more identified wireless application protocol servers.

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9. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the gateway authentication credentials correspond to other authentication credentials that allow access to a content server, and wherein a trust relationship exists between the gateway authentication credentials and other authentication credentials with respect to one or more access privileges, the method further comprising the acts of:

receiving a request for content available at the content server;

sending the request to the network;

receiving the requested content from the network; and

sending the received content to the client.

10. A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the content available at the content server comprises email content.

11. A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the one or more access privileges included within the trust relationship that exists between the gateway authentication credentials and the other authentication credentials comprise a delegate access permission.

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12. In a computerized system that includes one or more mobile clients accessing a mobile gateway and content server that are part of a network, wherein access to the content server requires authentication credentials that may contain a combination of numbers, upper case letters, lower case letters, and punctuation, and wherein at least some of the mobile clients use relatively short authentication credentials or have an input system that is optimized for numeric input rather than for letters or punctuation, the network maintaining mobile authentication credentials that specify one or more access privileges tailored to mobile client access, a method of authenticating a mobile client comprising a mobile gateway performing steps for:

altering authentication credentials to produce mapped authentication credentials that match mobile authentication credentials maintained on the network;

identifying a mobile client to the network using the altered authentication credentials; and

accessing content provided by the network in accordance with the access privileges allowed by the mobile authentication credentials.

13. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein the step for altering authentication credentials comprises the acts of:

defining an authentication filter that maps authentication credentials received from mobile clients according to pre-established criteria; and

mapping the received authentication credentials based on the pre-established criteria.

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14. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein the step for identifying a mobile client comprises the acts of:

receiving authentication credentials from a mobile client; and

sending mapped authentication credentials to the network, wherein the mobile client's access to the content source is determined from the mapped authentication credentials.

15. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein the step for altering authentication credentials includes changing at least one of a domain name and a username that are part of the authentication credentials.

16. A method as recited in claim 15 wherein changing at least one of the domain name and a username includes either adding a suffix to the username or replacing the domain name with another domain name.

17. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein the mobile authentication credentials are maintained in a credential database that is administered separately from domain authentication credentials and recognized by the content server only in authenticating mobile clients.

18. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein mobile authentication credentials and other authentication credentials share a common domain.

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19. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein the mobile client includes one or more identified wireless application protocol servers providing mobile gateway and content server access to one or more other mobile clients, the step for identifying a mobile client comprising the act of accepting authentication credentials only from the one or more identified wireless application protocol servers.

20. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein the step for accessing content provided by the content server comprises the acts of:

receiving a request to access content from the mobile client;

sending the request to the network;

receiving the requested content from the network; and

sending the received content to the mobile client.

21. A method as recited in claim 20 wherein the content is email content.

22. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein a trust relationship exists between the mobile authentication credentials and other authentication credentials with respect to one or more access privileges.

23. A method as recited in claim 22 wherein the one or more access privileges included within the trust relationship that exists between the mobile authentication credentials and the other authentication credentials comprise a delegate access permission.

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24. In a computerized system that includes one or more mobile clients accessing a mobile gateway and content server that are part of a network, wherein access to the content server requires authentication credentials that may contain a combination of numbers, upper case letters, lower case letters, and punctuation, and wherein at least some of the mobile clients use relatively short authentication credentials or have an input system that is optimized for numeric input rather than for letters or punctuation, the network maintaining mobile authentication credentials that specify one or more access privileges tailored to mobile client access, a computer program product that implements a method of authenticating a mobile client, comprising:

a computer readable medium for carrying machine-executable instructions for implementing the method; and

wherein said method is comprised of machine-executable instructions for a mobile gateway performing the acts of:

defining an authentication filter that maps authentication credentials received from mobile clients according to pre-established criteria;

receiving authentication credentials from a mobile client;

mapping the received authentication credentials based on the pre-established criteria, the mapped authentication credentials matching mobile authentication credentials corresponding to the mobile client and maintained on the network; and

sending the mapped authentication credentials to the network, wherein the mobile client's access to the content source is determined from the mapped authentication credentials.

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25. A computer program product as recited in claim 24 wherein mobile authentication credentials and other authentication credentials are maintained in separate domains, and wherein the act of mapping the received authentication credentials includes changing a domain name that is part of the received authentication credentials.

26. A computer program product as recited in claim 25 wherein the act of mapping the received authentication credentials includes replacing the domain name that is part of the received authentication credentials with another domain name.

27. A computer program product as recited in claim 24 wherein the mobile authentication credentials are maintained in a credential database that is administered separately from domain authentication credentials and recognized by the content server only in authenticating mobile clients.

28. A computer program product as recited in claim 24 wherein mobile authentication credentials and other authentication credentials share a common domain, and wherein the act of mapping the received authentication credentials includes changing a username that is part of the received authentication credentials.

29. A computer program product as recited in claim 28 wherein the act of mapping the received authentication credentials includes adding a suffix to the username.

30. A computer program product as recited in claim 28 wherein the act of mapping the received authentication credentials includes adding a prefix to the username.

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31. A computer program product as recited in claim 24 wherein the mobile authentication credentials correspond to other authentication credentials that allow access to a content server, and wherein a trust relationship exists between the mobile authentication credentials and other authentication credentials with respect to one or more access privileges, the method further comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the acts of:

receiving a request for content available at the content server;

sending the request to the network;

receiving the requested content from the network; and

sending the received content to the mobile client.

32. A computer program product as recited in claim 31 wherein the content available at the content server comprises email content.

33. A computer program product as recited in claim 31 wherein the one or more access privileges included within the trust relationship that exists between the mobile authentication credentials and the other authentication credentials comprise a delegate access permission.

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34. A computer program product as recited in claim 24 wherein the mobile client includes one or more identified wireless application protocol servers providing mobile gateway and content server access to one or more other mobile clients, the method further comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the act of accepting authentication credentials only from the one or more identified wireless application protocol servers.

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